

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] A method of manufacturing a fluid-dynamic-pressure bearing unit being made up of a shaft, and a sleeve that between itself and the shaft forms continuous bearing clearances into which oil as the working fluid for the fluid-dynamic-pressure bearing unit is charged and that are formed so as to include radial bearings and/or thrust bearings, the method comprising:

a vacuum-degassing step, within a degassing vacuum chamber that stores the oil for the fluid-dynamic-pressure bearing unit and that is under a reduced-pressure environment whose pressure is lower than that of the surrounding environs, of vacuum-degassing the oil;

a stirring-degassing step, simultaneous with said vacuum-degassing step, of stirring and degassing the oil by indirectly rotating or vibrating, by means of a drive source disposed on the exterior of the degassing vacuum chamber, at least one stirrer immersed within the oil;

a pressure-reduction step, for charging into the bearing clearances in the fluid-dynamic-pressure bearing unit the oil having been degassed, of pumping down, to a pressure below the pressure within the vacuum chamber storing the oil having been degassed, a vacuum chamber in which the fluid-dynamic-pressure bearing unit is retained;

an oil-supply step of supplying, from the vacuum chamber storing the oil having been degassed to the vacuum chamber retaining the fluid-dynamic-pressure bearing unit, the oil via supply lines; and

an oil-charging step of charging the oil into the bearing clearances by raising the internal pressure of the vacuum chamber retaining the fluid-dynamic-pressure bearing unit.

[Claim 2] A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the drive source includes a magnetic source for generating either a rotating or a vibrating magnetic field; and

attendant upon rotation or vibration of the magnetic field the at least one stirrer is magnetically attracted and thereby either rotated or vibrated.

[Claim 3] A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein in said vacuum-degassing and stirring-degassing steps the oil is heated to a temperature higher than the ambient temperature.

[Claim 4] A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein in said vacuum-degassing and stirring-degassing steps the oil is heated to a temperature higher than the ambient temperature.

[Claim 5] A method of inspecting a fluid-dynamic-pressure bearing unit, for a motor in which a fluid-dynamic-pressure bearing unit manufactured by a method as set forth in claim 1 is installed, comprising a step of:

repeatedly starting/stopping the motor and observing the presence/absence of movement of the boundary surface on the oil within the bearing clearances, and the frequency with which such movement occurs, to check for the presence/absence of occurrences of foaming within the oil and the cause of any such occurrences.